

ORIGIN/ACTION		
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AIRGRAM

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

POL 23 GUAT

A-270

NO.

CONFIDENTIAL

TO : Department of State

INFO : USCINCSO FOR POLAD, DOD, Amembassies MANAGUA, SAN JOSE, SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/HR

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

DATE: January 31, 1968

SUBJECT : Weekly Internal Security Report: 19-25/68

REF :

REVIEWED BY

DATE

RDS or RDS EXT. DATE

ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS

DECLASSIFIED/RELEASABLE

RELEASE DENIED

PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

REASON(S)

BUREAU OF

INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

FEB 1 1968

1. Most news was made by the Security Forces as they continued their pursuit of the authors of last week's assassinations. A large number of arrests have been made, but in many cases the suspects, for the most part known leftists, were held a relatively short time for questioning and then released.

2. Of special interest was the detention of rightist plotter Roberto ALEJOS Arzu. He was being held, according to the press, for "illegal political activity." It was reported that he had made statements to the foreign press that a group of Guatemalans were calling for the ouster of the Ministers of the Interior and Finance and/or the President himself.

3. The biggest reported success of the Security Forces was the death of 4 guerrillas on January 23. According to the official statement released by the police and published in the press, the 4 were killed in a raid on a house in Zone 11 of the capital. They were identified as: a) Cayetano BARRENO Juarez, PGT member and FAR leader (aka "Sustos"), deputy to FAR leader Arnaldo VASQUEZ Rivera (aka "Fuguché") and replacement in FAR organization for CASTILLO Johnson. Announcement says Barreno participated in assassination of MILGP officers; b) Rafael TISCHLER Guzman (aka "El Payaso," "Tinoco," "Ramon" and others) PGT and FAR leader; secretary general of education workers union (STEG) under Arbenz; c) Julio César ARMAS Gonzalez (aka "Silvio" and others) now member of resistance cell and formerly with guerrillas in mountains; d) Jorge Enrique de la TORRE Morel (aka "Guanviz") a Venezuelan-born nationalized Guatemalan and a member of the FAR.

4. In another action, according to the press, the National Police uncovered a cache of propaganda and reproducing equipment near Escuintla.

Enclosure: List of Incidents

FORM 4-62 DS-323

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☒ In ☐ Out

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LIST OF INCIDENTS

- Jan. 19 - Terrorist attack gas station in Coatepequez, Dept. Quezaltenango, fail to do major damage. Local firemen arrived in time to extinguish the only one (of three) fire bombs placed at the station which went off. No political motive known.
- 20 - Well-known Finquero Dionisio GUTIERREZ Campollo, brother of José GUTIERREZ Campollo, PR deputy from San Marcos, shot at from ambush and wounded near El Carmen, Dept. San Marcos. No motive known.
- 20 - Eduardo ARRIVILLAGA Molina who had been exiled in Embassy of El Salvador in Guatemala for more than one year granted safe conduct by GOG and flew to El Salvador. Guatemala had claimed his crimes were common and El Salvador held they were political.
- O/A 20 - Band of unidentified men wielding machine guns kidnapped Tomas MATEO Espinoza from public swimming pool in Esquipulas, Dept. Chiquimula. No political motive known.
- 21 - Band of machine gun-armed and olive drab-dressed men raided house of Eulalia LOPEZ Grijalva in El Progreso, Dept. Jutiapa, and stole Q1,500. Alfonso CONTRERAS Escobar, well-known local delinquent arrested.
- O/A 22 - Two men accused of clandestine traffic in arms, munition and medical supplies across Mexican border into Guatemala, captured in San Pedro Sacatepéquez, Dept. San Marcos. They were identified as Andrés Ramos Reynasa and Rafael PEREZ Tomas. Tie to guerrillas not established according to press.
- 22 - Bus line owner found shot and body mutilated in San Luis Las Cabezas, Dept. Sacatepéquez. He was Victoriano VEGA Camey, owner of line Las Palmeras. He had been reported missing on January 19. Press reports authorities have no leads.
- 23 - Assassinated bodies, 2 with bullet wounds, found at Villa Nueva, Dept. Guatemala. One identified as Jorge Enrique ALDANA Córdón. No political motive known. tentatively
- 23 - Two unidentified, shot bodies found at Santa Maria de Jesus, Dept. Sacatepequez. No political motive known.
- 23 - Press reports 4 presumed guerrillas killed, a police officer wounded and subversive literature, army uniforms and arms confiscated in a police raid on a Zone 11 house. The dead were identified in police announcement in press as: Cayetano BARRENO Juarez, high FAR leader and one of the participants in the Jan. 16 assassinations of US MILGP officers;

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- Jan. 23 - (cont.) Rafael TISCHLER Zuzman, PGT and FAR leader; Julio César ARMAS Gonzalez, member of resistance cell; and Jorge Enrique de la TORRE Morel, Venezuelan-born naturalized Guatemalan and FAR activist.
- 24 - Body of Eduardo VELASQUEZ Sosa found shot to death near Villa Nueva, Dept. Guatemala. No political motive known.
- 24 - Prominent businessman and behind the scenes rightist political plotter Roberto ALEJOS Arzu taken into custody. (GUATEMALA 2998)
- 25 - Press reports National Police uncover guerrilla cache near Escuintla. Confiscated were communist literature and propaganda, 4 army uniforms, a typewriter, and a mimeograph machine and other objects. No arrests were made.

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